

EXPRESSING QUANTITY



When expressing quantity we need to pay attention to whether it is a COUNTABLE or UNCOUNTABLE NOUN.

COUNTABLE NOUNS

a) They are the names of separate objects, people ... which we can count. They have both singular and plural forms:

• a/one book two books

• a/one man two men

b) They take singular or plural verb forms:

This banana is delicious.

These bananas are delicious.

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

a) They are the names of things we do not see as separate and which we cannot count. They have no plurals:

• milk • weather • money

b) They take only singular verbs:

The weather was very hot.

Milk is good for you.

c) Not used with a/an/one...



PRACTICE

Insert **a/an** before each countable noun. Put an (x) before an uncountable noun.

- a) ___ water b) ___ egg c) ___ cheese
d) ___ meat e) ___ banana f) ___ hamburger
g) ___ meal h) ___ fish i) ___ tea
j) ___ cup k) ___ sugar l) ___ apple
m) ___ rice n) ___ bread o) ___ orange
p) ___ sandwich q) ___ cookie r) ___ sausage



Below you have a list of some QUANTIFIERS. Some are used with countable nouns, others with uncountable ones. Some can even be used with both.

COUNTABLES (apple/apples)

UNCOUNTABLES (cheese)

a lot of (lots of) / plenty of

LARGE AMOUNT

a lot of (lots of) / plenty of

a(n) / some / *(a) few / not many
(*a few = some *few = not many)

SMALL AMOUNT

some / *(a) little / not much
(*a little = some *little = not much)

not any, no

NO AMOUNT

not any, no



SOME

• for AFFIRMATIVES:

There are some eggs.

• for OFFERS and REQUESTS:

Would you like some tea?

• for QUESTIONS where the answer 'yes' is expected:

Did you buy some eggs?



ANY

• for NEGATIVES:

I haven't got any money to go to the restaurant.

• or in OPEN QUESTIONS:

Have you got any milk?

(the answer can be 'yes' or 'no')



MUCH / MANY / A LOT OF

• MUCH/MANY are used in NEGATIVES:

We didn't buy many potatoes / I don't have much oil.

• or in INTERROGATIVES

How much milk/how many eggs do you have?

• A LOT OF (LOTS OF) is used in AFFIRMATIVES:

We have got a lot of eggs.

(NOT: *We have got many eggs*)



PRACTICE

Look at the picture and complete the sentences with a suitable QUANTIFIER.



- Is there ___ butter left? – No, there's ___ butter.
- How ___ lemons are there? I think two.
- There aren't ___ strawberries. Do you want me to buy ___ more?
- Oh no! There's isn't ___ juice. Just one carton.
- There are ___ soda cans but only ___ bottle of beer.
- There are only a ___ sausages, right? – No, there are plenty.
- We need ___ more pears. There aren't ___ left.
- There aren't ___ eggs in the fridge.
- There is ___ fruit in the fridge but only ___ vegetables.
- How ___ cheese is there? There is only ___ cheese left.